



DARK NIGHTS

4

DEATH METAL



SNYDER + CAPULLO + CLAPION + PLASCENCIA

DCCOMICS.COM
AGES 13+

Capullo
20-fco
MARTIN



Monsters
can take root anywhere...

SWAMP THING

TWIN BRANCHES

Written by
New York Times
bestselling author
Maggie Stiefvater

Illustrated by
Morgan Beem



OCTOBER



A new graphic novel
for young adults



EARTH. NOW!

PSSST.
HEY!

DOWN
HERE!



HEH!
IT'S YOU.

WHERE
THE HELL YOU
BEEN, KIDDO?!
WE'VE BEEN
LOOKIN' FOR
YOU!



WE'RE IN
THE **CAKE** NOW.
THE THICKEST
PART.

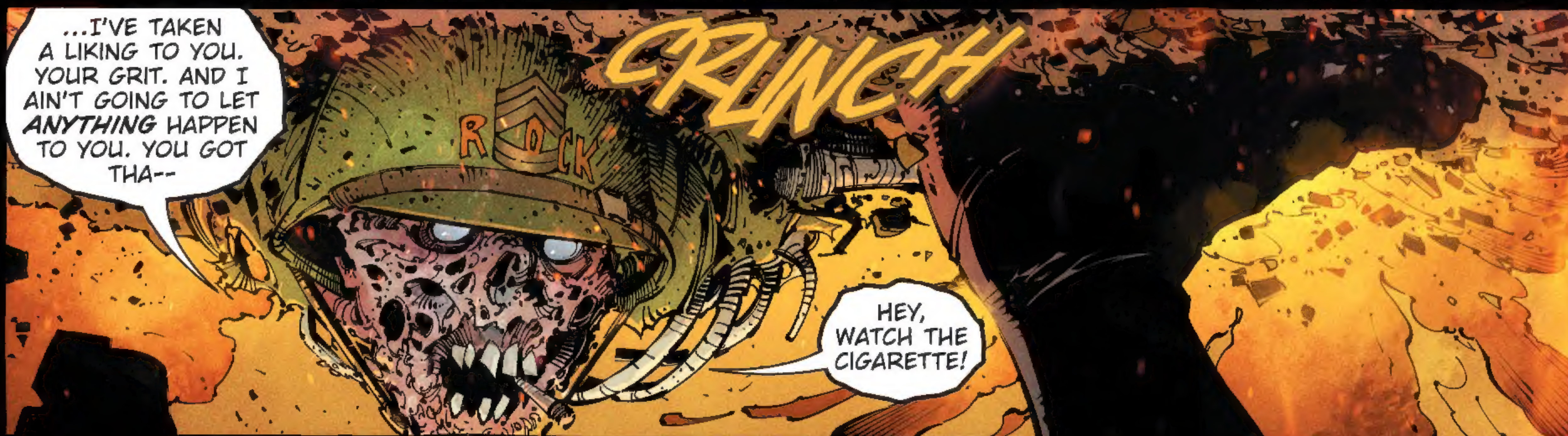


THAT CUT OF THE BATTLE
WHERE IT COULD SLICE EITHER
WAY. AND SO EVERYBODY--
EVERYBODY--IS LEAVING
IT OUT THERE ON
THAT HILL.



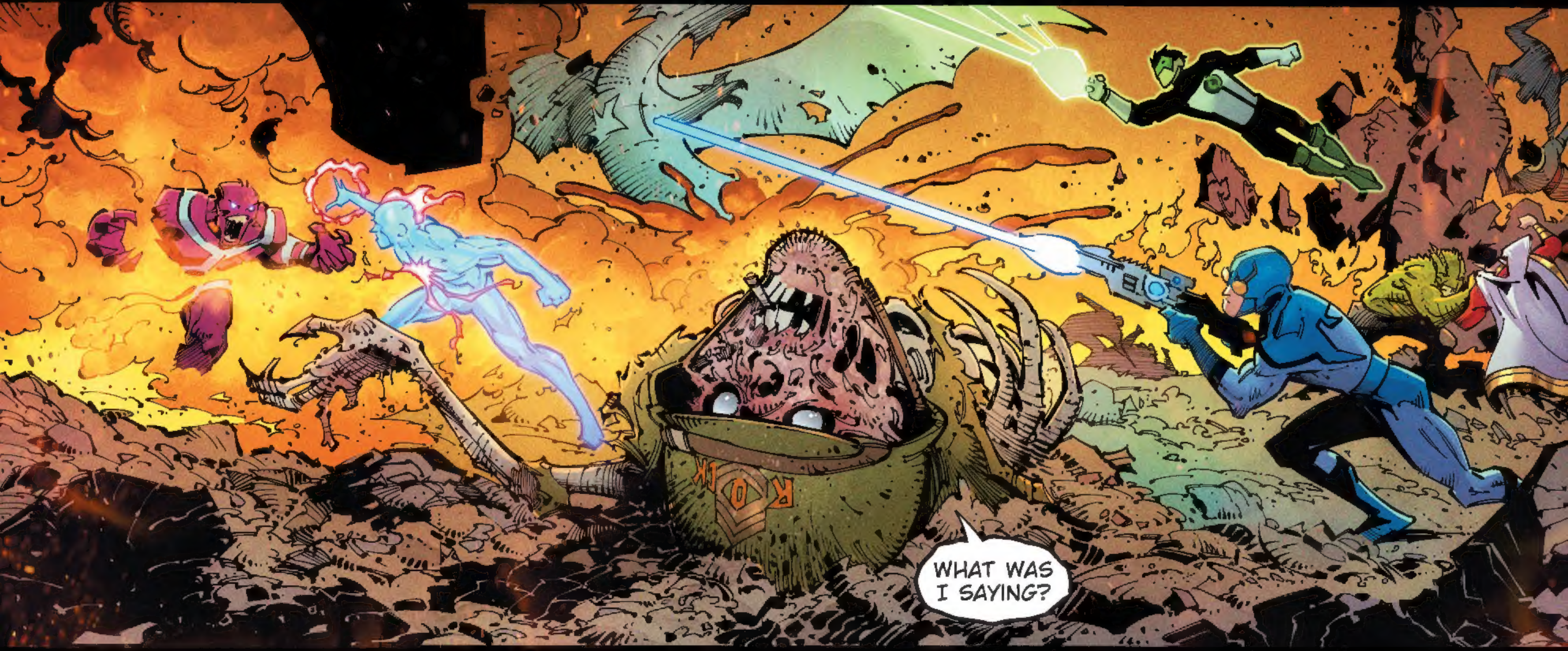
NOW YOU? YOU LOOK RIGHT HERE
AT ME. NOT AT THE CHAOS, THE
BLOOD AND FIRE. YOU LOOK CLOSE
INTO THIS PRETTY FACE, THESE
BABY GREENS. AND KNOW
THAT YOU'RE **SAFE**.

YOU'RE
WITH ME
NOW. **UNCLE
ROCK...**



...I'VE TAKEN
A LIKING TO YOU.
YOUR GRIT. AND I
AIN'T GOING TO LET
ANYTHING HAPPEN
TO YOU. YOU GOT
THA--

HEY,
WATCH THE
CIGARETTE!



WHAT WAS
I SAYING?

UHH!
DAMMIT, COME
ON, ROCK! QUIT
TALKING TO
GHOSTS!

YOU JUST
KEEP YOUR
EYES ON THE
BATTLE.

DON'T MIND
HIM. BUT SINCE
YOU TOOK UP WITH
A DIFFERENT PLATOON
FOR A SPELL, LET'S
COMPARE INTEL, SEE
IF IT SQUARES
UP!*

*BE SURE TO CHECK OUT
TRINITY CRISIS #1, SPEED METAL #1,
MULTIVERSE'S END #1! --MARIE

"LAST WE WERE TOGETHER,
EVERYONE WAS SETTING OUT ON
THEIR SEPARATE MISSIONS.

"THE *RING SLINGERS*
WENT TO DISMANTLE THE
ANTENNAE, SAVE WHAT THEY
COULD OF THE MULTIVERSE...

"...THE SPEEDSTERS WERE
RACING TO KEEP WALLY AWAY
FROM THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS,
WHO'S AFTER HIS POWER.

"JARRO, SWAMP THING, JONAH
HEX, AND HARLEY QUINN HELPED
WONDER WOMAN AND HER SQUAD
INFILTRATE *CASTLE BAT*...

"...BUT NOT BEFORE GETTING
JUMPED BY SOME DELINQUENT
IN A BIRD SUIT CALLING
HIMSELF THE *ROBIN KING*,
WHO SNATCHED AWAY HEX.

"AS FOR WONDER WOMAN,
SUPERMAN, AND BATMAN,
THEY TOOK THE BIGGEST
MISSION OF ALL AND DOVE
INTO THE DARK, LOOKING
FOR THE WORLDS
POWERING PERPETUA.

"WORLDS WHERE THREE
MAJOR COSMIC *CRISES*
WERE STILL HAPPENING,
SO THEY COULD STEAL
THE ENERGY WITH THESE
BOXES CALLED ALFRED--"

ROCK!
ENOUGH!

ALL RIGHT,
WE GOTTA MOVE,
KID! BUT ALL YOU
REALLY NEED
TO KNOW...

"...IS THAT THE CRISIS
WORLDS WONDER
WOMAN AND COMPANY
EXPECTED TO FIND...

"...WEREN'T THE
ONES THEY GOT.

"NOT BY A LONG SHOT."

DEATH METAL

AN ANTI-CRISIS PART IV

SHOT IN THE DARK

BY SCOTT "SCREAM KING" SNYDER & GREG "THE MUSCLE" CAPULLO



WITH

INKS - JONATHAN "BLOODIED" GLAPION

COLORS - FCO "DEMON LORD" PLASCENCIA

LETTERS - TOM "POWER CHORD" NAPOLITANO

COVER BY GREG CAPULLO, JONATHAN GLAPION & FCO PLASCENCIA

DARKSEID VARIANT COVER BY DAVID "FAMOUS LAST WORDS" FINCH

& STEVE "FIRESPAWN" FIRCHOW

SUPERBOY-PRIME VARIANT COVER BY ALEX "GRIMLORD" GARNER

JOHN STEWART VARIANT COVER BY STANLEY "ARTGERM, A.K.A. LAST RITES" LAU

1:25 VARIANT COVER BY DOUG "THE DESECRATOR" MAHNKE

& DAVID "DARKSTAR" BARON

CARTOGRAPHER - JARED "THE BLASPHEMER" BLANDO

PUBLICATION DESIGN - DARRAN "RICOCHET" ROBINSON

ASSOCIATE EDITOR - ANDREW "MACHETEFACE" MARINO

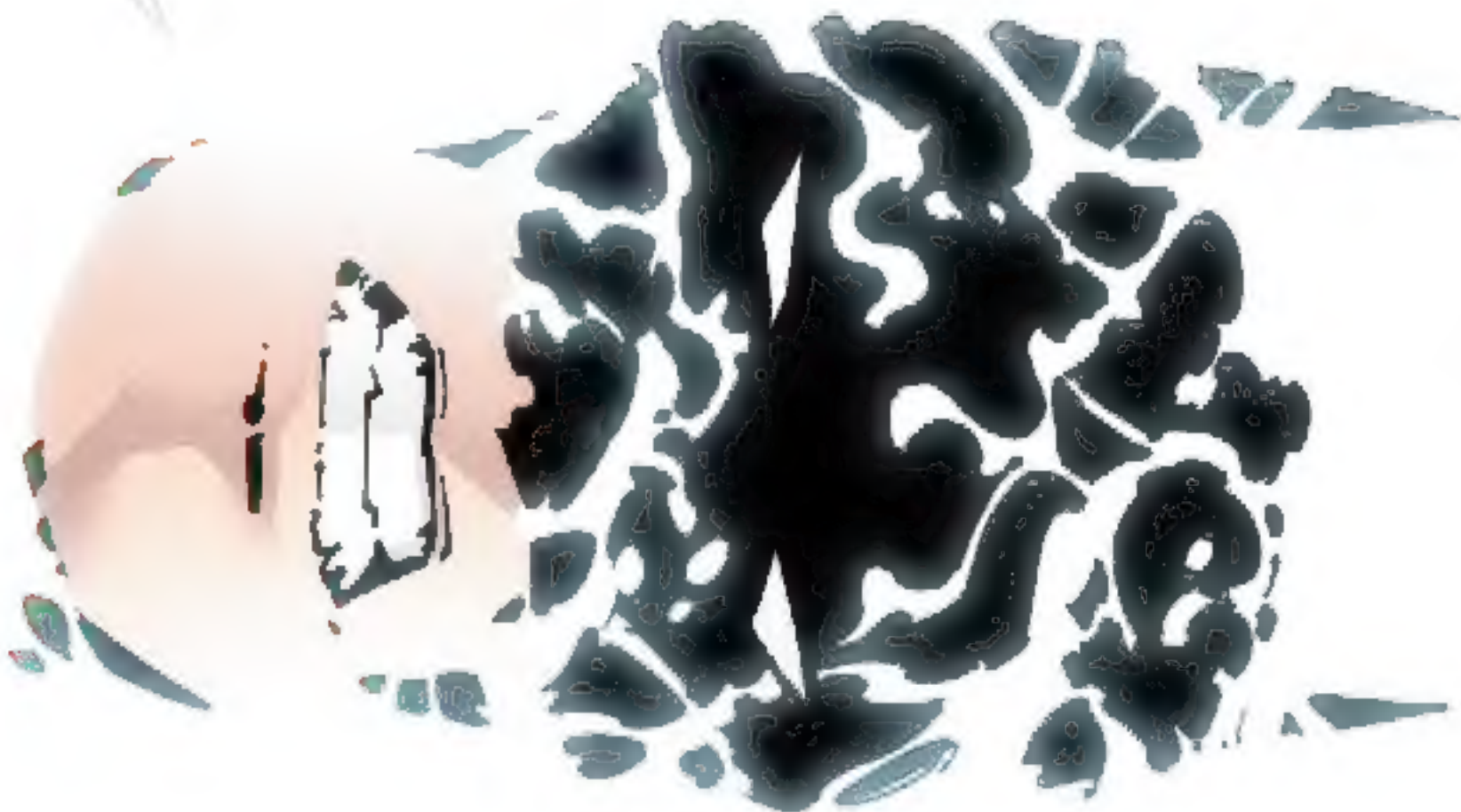
EDITOR - MARIE "THE MASTERMIND" JAVINS

**SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER
BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY**

CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS.

=GASP!=-

HEL...
HELLO?!



WONDER
WOMAN, SUPERMAN!
IF YOU CAN HEAR
ME THROUGH THE
ALFRED BOXES,
TURN BACK!



THESE
WORLDS...
THEY'RE ALL
WRONG!

THEY'RE
NOT THE CRISES
AS WE KNEW THEM!
THEY'RE SOME
KIND OF **DARK**
VERSIONS...

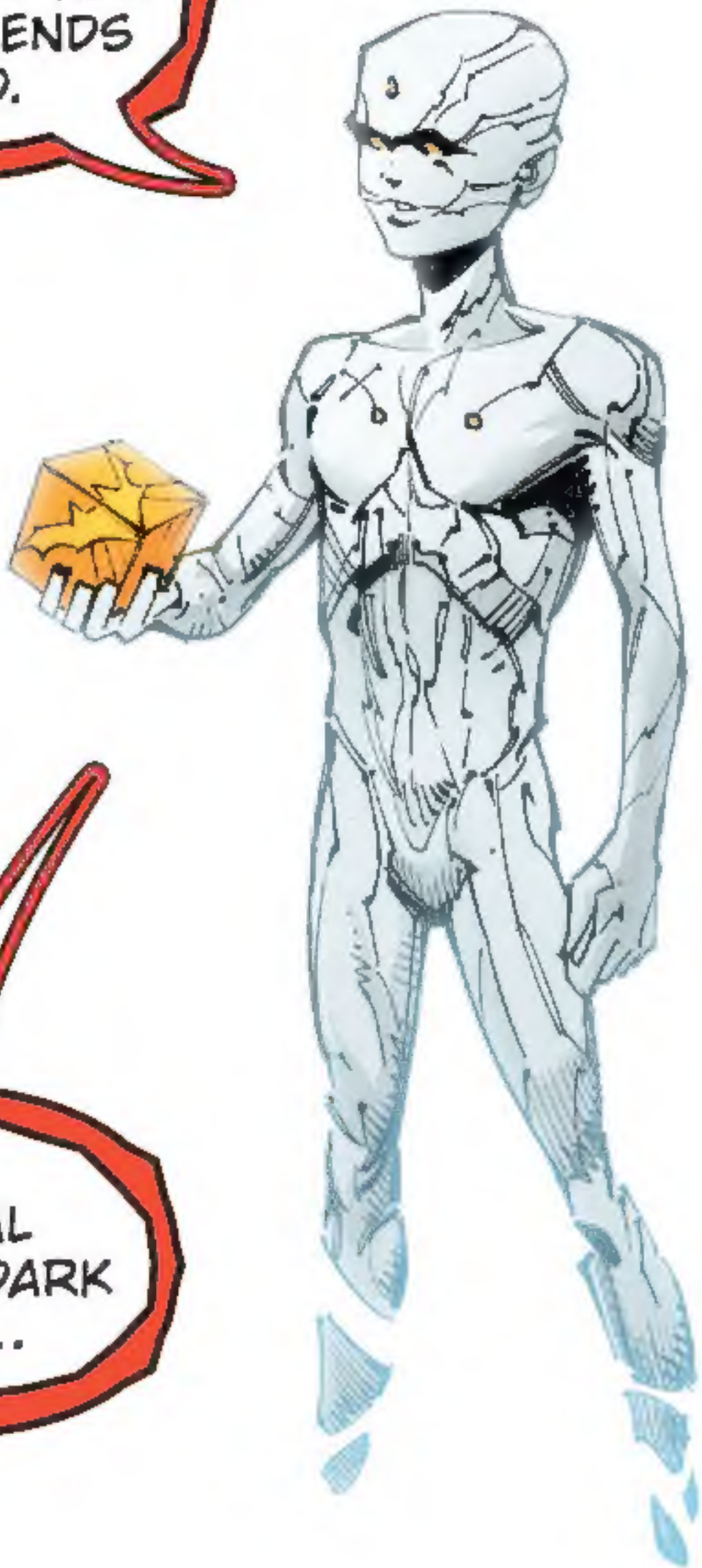
...VERSIONS
WHERE--NO!



YOU WERE
GOING TO SAY,
VERSIONS OF THE
CRISES WHERE
YOU **LOST**.

AND THAT'S
CORRECT, BATMAN.
I WON AGAINST YOU
AND YOUR FRIENDS
LONG AGO.

LISTEN
TO ME, WHATEVER
ALTERNATE FORM OF
THE **ANTI-MONITOR** YOU
ARE, SON, YOU NEED
TO GIVE THAT
BACK--



I AM
THE REAL
MOBIUS, DARK
KNIGHT...



"...ALL THIS IS AS
REAL AS IT GETS."

STAY
DOWN.

NO!
WHERE ARE
THE HEROES?!
WHERE ARE--

FINAL CRISIS

THERE
IS NO ONE
HERE BUT **DARKSEID**,
KRYPTONIAN. I CONTROL
WITH ANTI-LIFE ANYTHING
THAT BREATHES. I SPEAK
THROUGH EVERYTHING
IN THIS PLACE.

IF
YOU WISH TO
SPEAK TO ME,
KNEEL.



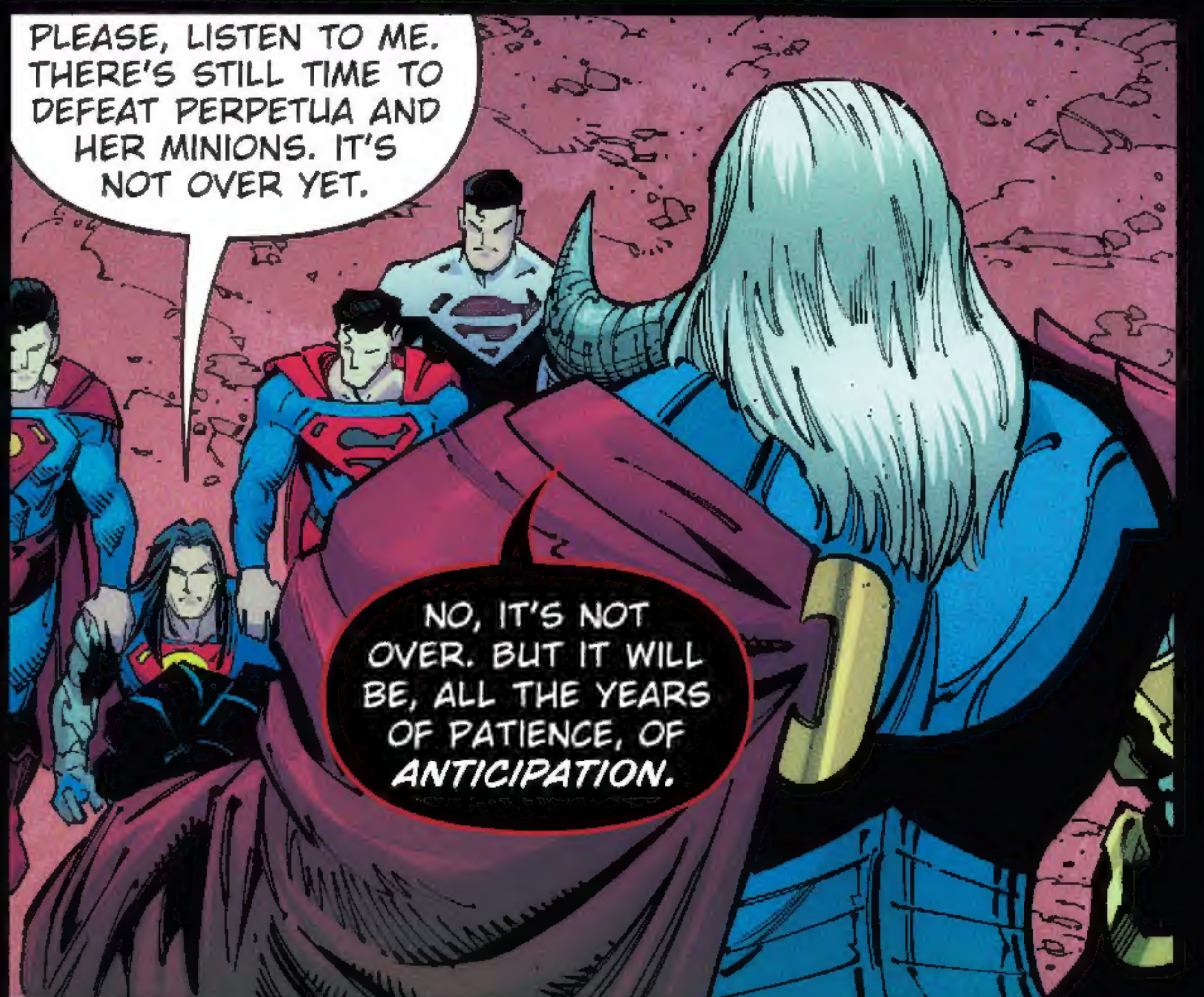
UNH. YOUR
ENERGY SIGNATURE...
YOU'RE...THE REAL
DARKSEID?!

I AM. BY
YOUR PERCEPTION,
I ENTERED THIS
WORLD ONLY
MONTHS AGO.



BUT HERE, I HAVE
RULED FOR *EONS*. I
AM AN OLD GOD BY NOW,
WITH ONLY ONE TASK
LEFT TO SECURE
THIS REALITY.

WOULD
YOU LIKE TO
KNOW WHAT
IT IS?



PLEASE, LISTEN TO ME.
THERE'S STILL TIME TO
DEFEAT PERPETUA AND
HER MINIONS. IT'S
NOT OVER YET.

NO, IT'S NOT
OVER. BUT IT WILL
BE, ALL THE YEARS
OF PATIENCE, OF
ANTICIPATION.

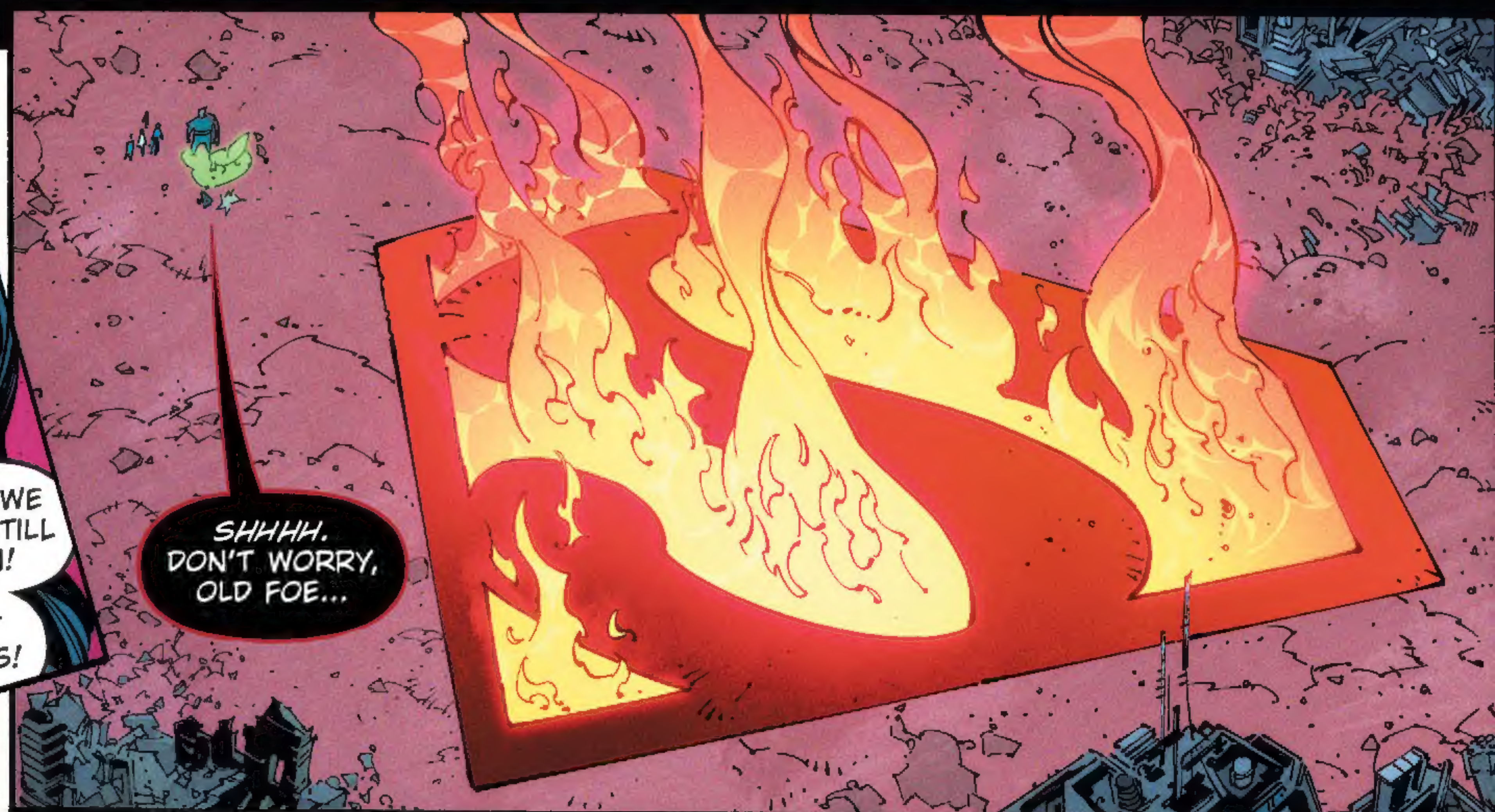


THIS ENDS
WHEN YOU ARE
SUBMERGED IN THIS
FIRE-PIT, KRYPTONIAN,
AND EMERGE MY
FINAL SON.



NO! WE
CAN STILL
WIN!

DON'T
DO THIS!



SHHHH.
DON'T WORRY,
OLD FOE...

"WHEN YOU WAKE...FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YOUR LIFE, YOU'LL KNOW *TRUE* HAPPINESS."



WHAT IN...

SAY HELLO TO ALEXANDER LUTHOR.

OR GOODBYE, RATHER. HE HAD NO PLACE HERE. THIS WORLD IS ONE OF HOPE, OF GOODNESS AFTER ALL. I CAN'T WAIT TO SHOW IT TO YOU, DIANA.

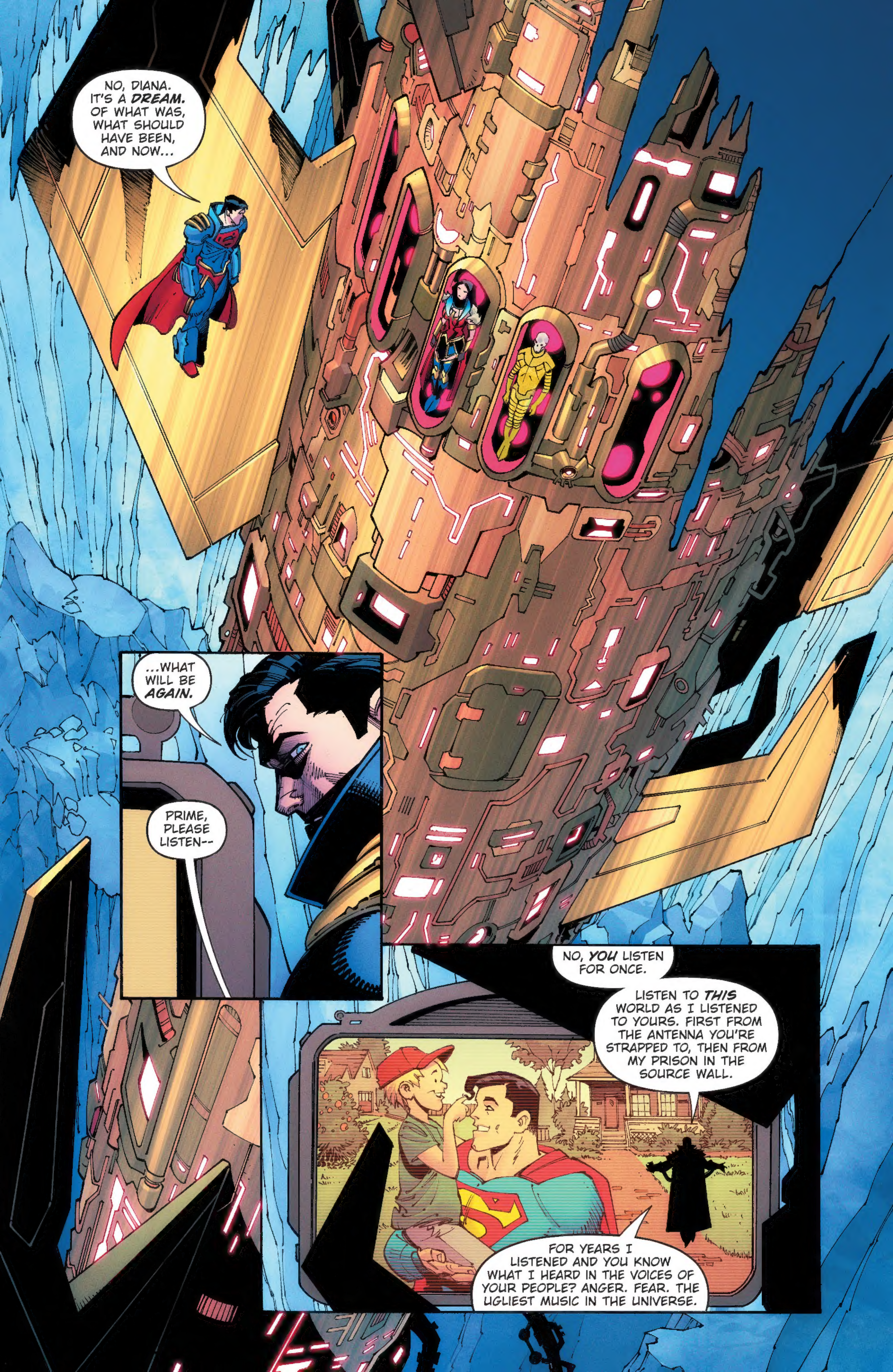
WHATEVER YOU'VE CREATED HERE, IT'S A LIE...



INFINITE CRISIS.

...SUPERBOY PRIME.





NO, DIANA.
IT'S A *DREAM*.
OF WHAT WAS,
WHAT SHOULD
HAVE BEEN,
AND NOW...

...WHAT
WILL BE
AGAIN.

PRIME,
PLEASE
LISTEN--

NO, *YOU* LISTEN
FOR ONCE.

LISTEN TO *THIS*
WORLD AS I LISTENED
TO YOURS. FIRST FROM
THE ANTENNA YOU'RE
STRAPPED TO, THEN FROM
MY PRISON IN THE
SOURCE WALL.

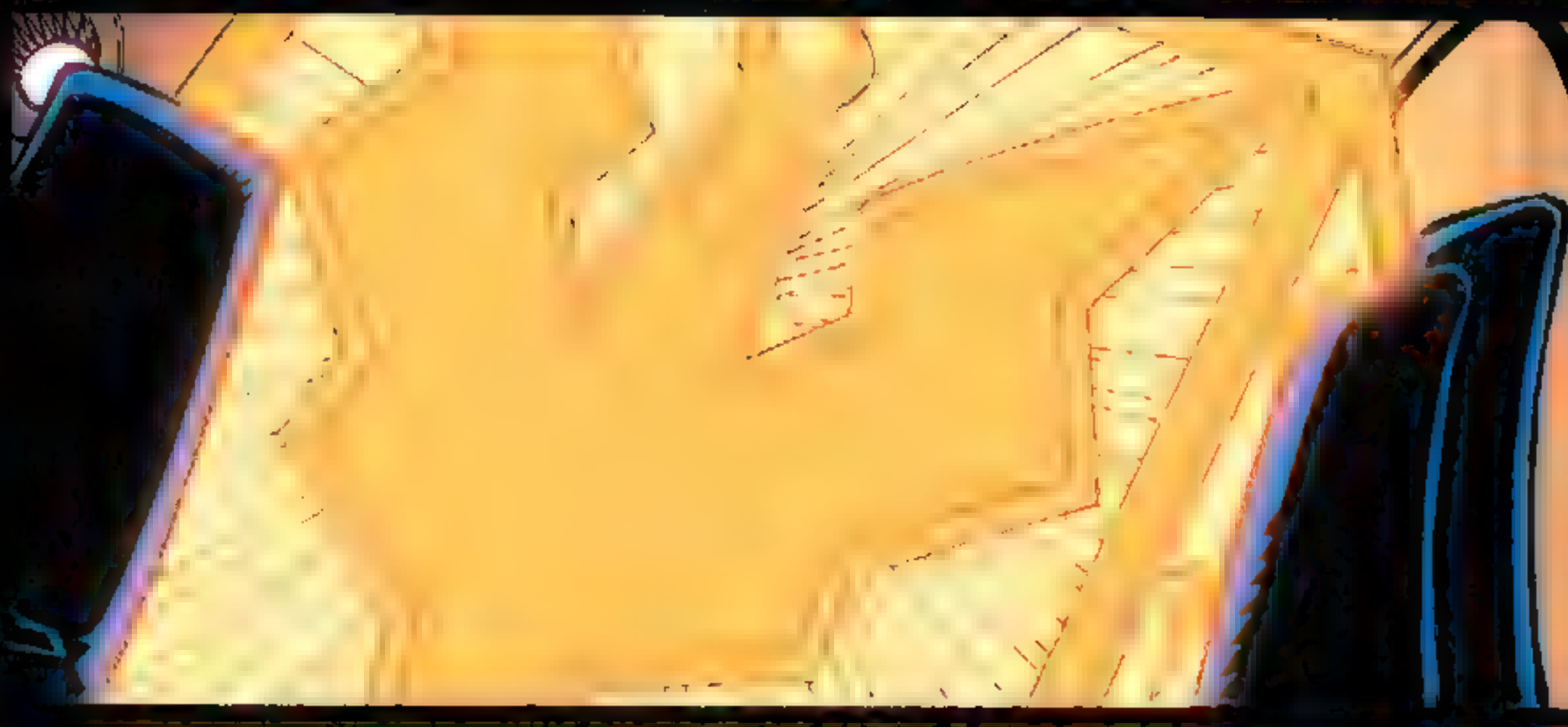
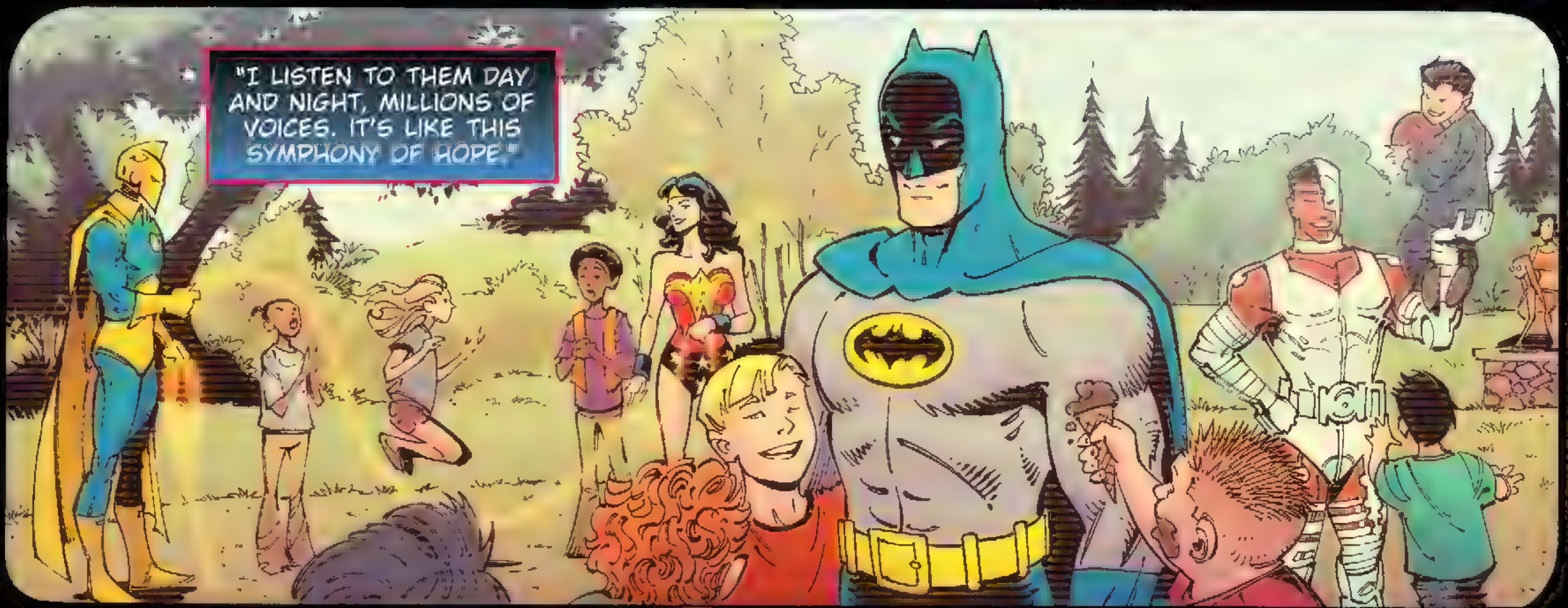
FOR YEARS I
LISTENED AND YOU KNOW
WHAT I HEARD IN THE VOICES OF
YOUR PEOPLE? ANGER. FEAR. THE
UGLIEST MUSIC IN THE UNIVERSE.

"I HEARD ENOUGH OF IT. SO NOW YOU HEAR MY WORLD, DIANA. THE VOICES OF THE PEOPLE. THEY'RE HAPPY. THEY'RE FAITHFUL."



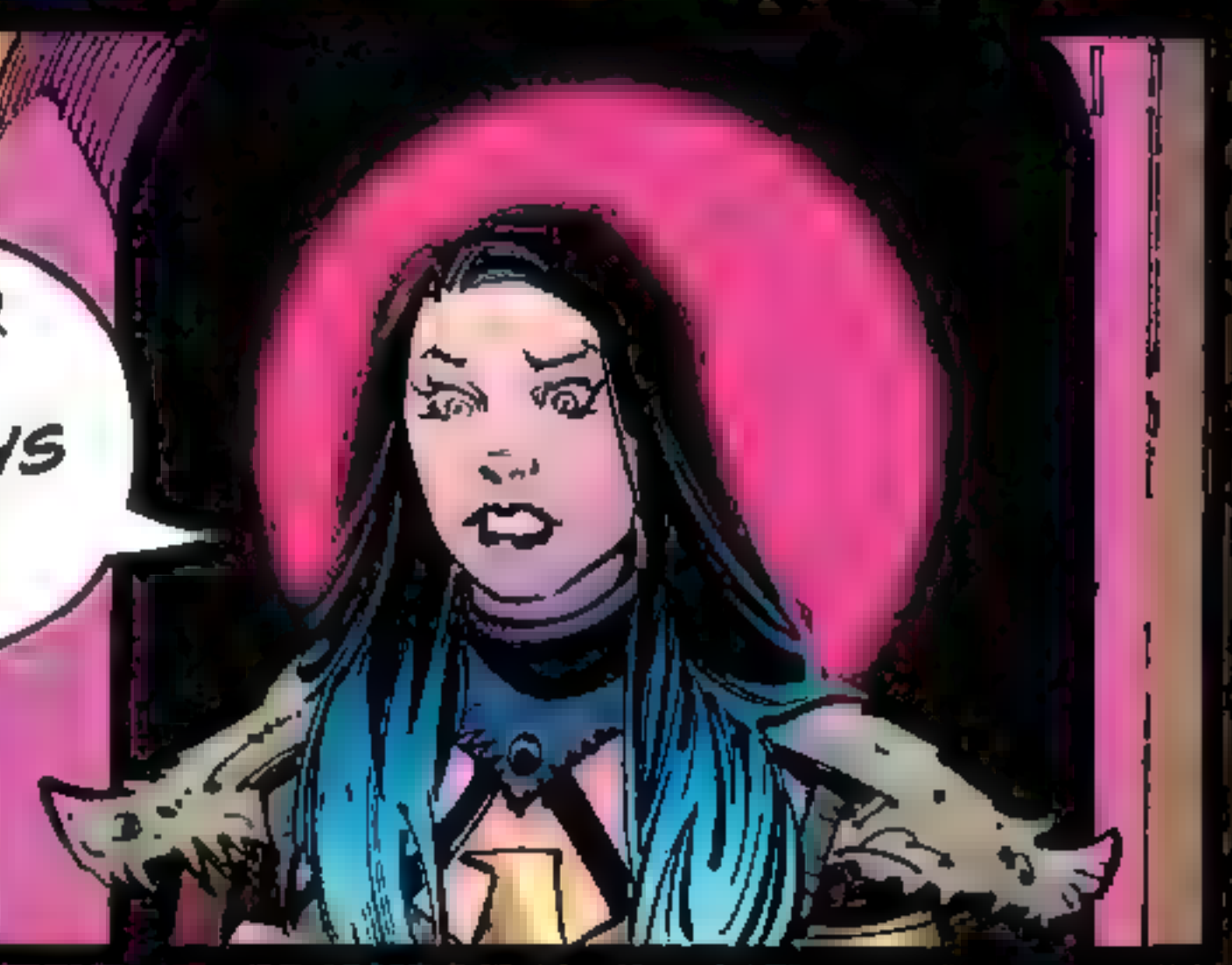
"WHY? BECAUSE THEY HAVE **HEROES** WHOSE GOODNESS INSPIRES THEM. WHO KEEP EVIL AT BAY. WHO VANQUISHED IT ALREADY."

"I LISTEN TO THEM DAY AND NIGHT, MILLIONS OF VOICES. IT'S LIKE THIS SYMPHONY OF HOPE."



PRIME, PLEASE.

WHATEVER THE ONE WHO LAUGHS PROMISED YOU...



...WHATEVER HE CAME TO YOU WITH--

HE DIDN'T COME TO ME.

I WENT TO HIM.

WHEN YOU BROKE THE SOURCE WALL AND FREED ME, I SAW THE CHAOS COMING.



TO MAKE SURE THERE MIGHT BE **ONE** WORLD WHERE HEROES REMAINED, I SOUGHT HIM OUT.

I WAS THE ONE WHO MADE THE PROMISES.

AND ALL I HAD TO GIVE HIM... WAS YOU.





**BEGIN
COUNTDOWN**

THE LAND OF GOTHAM!



THE
SPEED FORCE IS
BURNING OUT,
BARRY!

I FEEL IT
TOO! **WALLY**,
IF YOU CAN MAKE
CONTACT WITH THE
CASTLE BAT TEAM,
TELL THEM WE'RE
RUNNING OUT
OF TIME!

THEY NEED
TO DIRECT THE
CRISIS ENERGY
TO THE **MOBIUS**
CHAIR SO IT CAN
POWER YOU
UP!

I'M
TRYING!

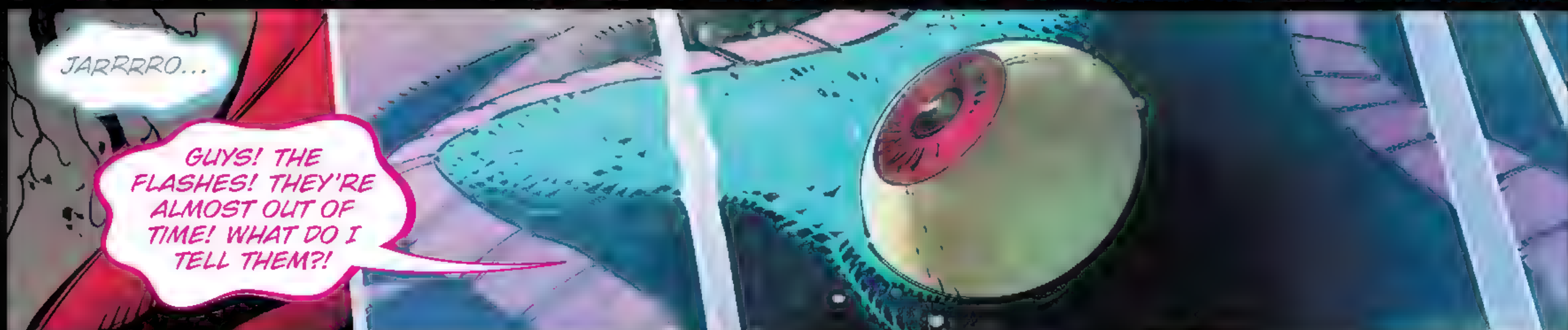
JARRO...
JARRO, COME
IN!



KEEP GOING!
HARLEY!

NO! HEX
IS STILL ALIVE
BACK THERE.
OR ALIVE-ISH?

WE CAN'T
JUST LEAVE HIM WITH
THAT LITTLE HELLSPAWN!
HE DOESN'T DESERVE
THAT!



JARRRRO...

GUYS! THE
FLASHES! THEY'RE
ALMOST OUT OF
TIME! WHAT DO I
TELL THEM?!



THERE'S
NOTHING TO TELL
THEM! DIANA HAS
NOT RETURNED AND
THERE'S NO PLACE
SAFE TO--

BOOM



EXCUSE
ME? I THINK
YOU MIGHT HAVE
DROPPED THIS
BACK THERE?

HURTSSSSS...



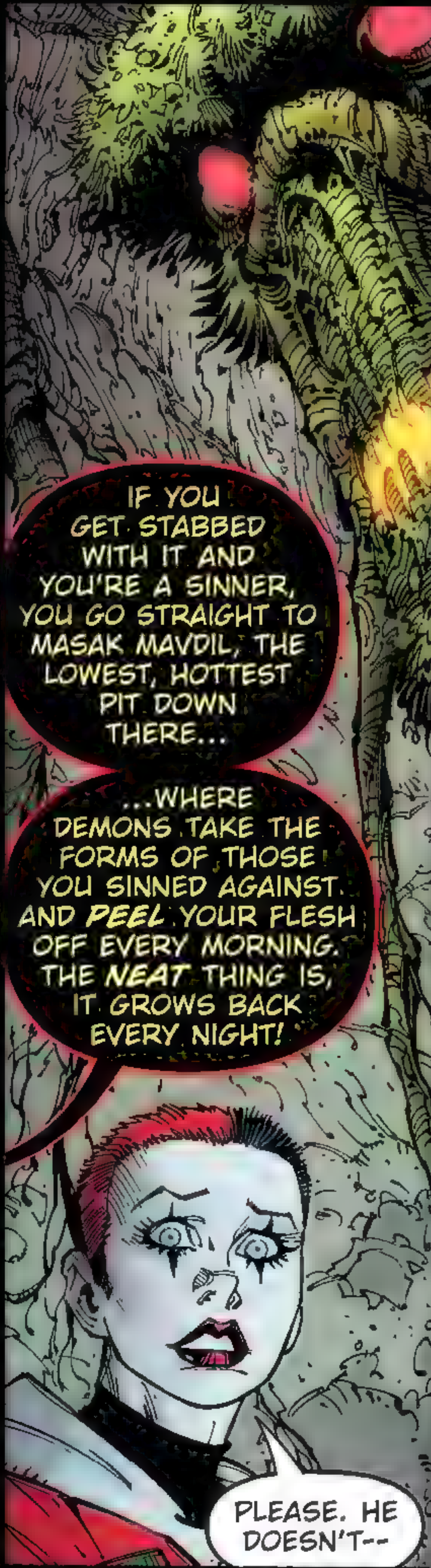
JUST
LET HEX
GO! THERE'S
NOTHING LEFT
OF HIM TO
HURT!



I FEEL THAT'S
KIND OF A NEGATIVE WAY
OF LOOKING AT THINGS,
HARLEEN. MAYBE I'M
JUST YOUNG AND NAIVE,
BUT I LIKE TO THINK
THERE'S *ALWAYS*
SOMETHING LEFT
TO HURT.

WHAT
ARE
YOU--

THIS
KNIFE WAS
FORGED BY
NERON, LORD
OF HELL.



IF YOU
GET STABBED
WITH IT AND
YOU'RE A SINNER,
YOU GO STRAIGHT TO
MASAK MAVDIL, THE
LOWEST, HOTTEST
PIT DOWN
THERE...

...WHERE
DEMONS TAKE THE
FORMS OF THOSE
YOU SINNED AGAINST.
AND *PEEL* YOUR FLESH
OFF EVERY MORNING.
THE *MEAT* THING IS,
IT GROWS BACK
EVERY NIGHT!

PLEASE. HE
DOESN'T--



...IT'S OKAY,
KID...I GOT
IT COMING. BUT
YOU...YOU DON'T.
PLEASE...*RUN*.
BEFOR--



I'LL
KILL YOU!

JARRO,
STOP HER!

ON IT!



LET...ME...
GO.

AW YOU
CAN LET HER GO,
GUYS. I WAS JUST
GOING TO GIVE
THIS BACK TO
HER...



IT'S THE Mallet SHE
TRIED TO KILL ME
WITH ON MY
WORLD.

HEY, I
WANTED TO ASK
YOU. I HAVE THIS
THEORY ON WHY
YOU USE THESE
THINGS...



SEE, THE ONE
WHO LAUGHS, HE'S
SHOWN ME A LOT OF THE
DARK MULTIVERSE. I MEAN A
LOT HAHA. NOW, HEROES'
FEARS TAKE THE FORM OF
EVIL VERSIONS OF
THEMSELVES.

BY CONTRAST,
VILLAINS' FEARS
TAKE THE FORM OF
GOOD VERSIONS OF
THEMSELVES, WHICH
ARE NO FUN TO
BRING HERE AT
ALL!

SO, EVER
WONDER WHY
YOU NEVER SEE
A HARLEY WHO
LAUGHS?



YOUR PARENTS KNEW IT.
"HARLEEN QUINZEL." IN
FOLKLORE A HARLEQUIN
STARTED AS A MINION
OF THE DEVIL.

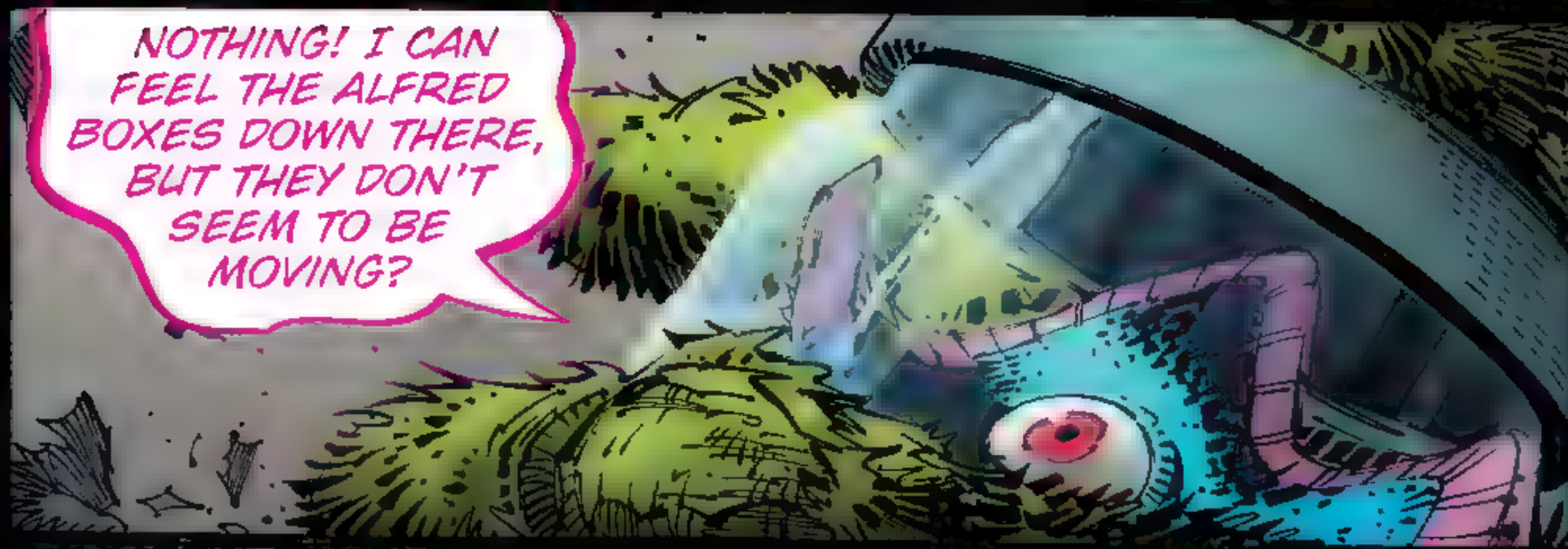
SO
MY THEORY
IS, YOU USE THESE
THINGS TO BASH THE
TRUTH AWAY. THAT
DEEP DOWN, YOU'RE
SO MUCH MORE
EVIL THAN
JOK--

ENOUGH!
JARRO,
RELEASE
HER!



HURRY! THAT
WON'T HOLD HIM
FOR LONG!

JARRO! ANY
SIGN OF DIANA
AND HER
TEAM?



NOTHING! I CAN
FEEL THE ALFRED
BOXES DOWN THERE,
BUT THEY DON'T
SEEM TO BE
MOVING?

WHAT THE
HELL DO YOU
THINK IS GOING
ON DOWN
THERE?!

I DON'T
KNOW. BUT I
PRAY THEY FIND
THEIR WAY
HOME...

"...AND FAST."

BEGIN
COUNTDOWN.

DON'T
DO THIS,
PRIME!

YOU'RE
THE ONE WHO
DID THIS,
DIANA.

YOU LEFT
WALLY EXPOSED,
SO THAT THE ONE
WHO LAUGHS COULD
SNUFF OUT THE
ONLY THREAT
TO HIM.

YOU SENT THE
LANTERNS TO DISMANTLE
THE ANTENNAE POWERING
PERPETUA SO THAT ALL
CRISIS ENERGY COULD BE
REDIRECTED TO A NEW
TARGET FROM THIS
PLACE.

YOU GAVE
HIM EVERYTHING
HE NEEDED.

ME, I DID NOTHING BUT
DO WHAT I'VE DONE FOR
YEARS. WATCH AND WAIT
FOR YOU AND YOUR
FRIENDS TO FAIL.

MOMENTS FROM
NOW, THOUGH, ALL
THE **ALFRED BOXES** WILL
BE DESTROYED. AND I WILL
DIRECT ALL CRISIS ENERGY
TO THE ONE WHO LAUGHS
AND HE WILL MAKE THESE
WORLDS REAL AND...
LASTING.

IF YOU
EMPOWER THAT
MONSTER--

YOU'RE **ALL**
MONSTERS. YOU
KNOW, AS A BOY I
FELT SO **LUCKY** JUST
TO LIVE IN A TIME
WHEN YOU ALL
WALKED THE
EARTH.

THESE
HEROES WHO
WERE THE BEST
OF US.

YOU FOUGHT
BAD GUYS AND YOU
WON AND IT WAS
SIMPLE.

BUT
YOU ALL...
CHANGED.

NOW,
MY PURPOSE
IS TO GUARD
THE ESSENCE OF
WHAT YOU **WERE**.
WHAT YOU'RE
SUPPOSED
TO BE.

I'M SAVING
YOU, DIANA.
SAVING YOU
ALL.

IF
MAKING A
DEAL WITH THE
DEVIL IS THE
ONLY WAY TO
DO THAT...

I FELT SO...
LUCKY TO BE
A BOY LIVING IN
THE SHADOW OF
THESE IDOLS.



"...THEN
SO BE IT."

WHAT...
WHAT ARE
YOU...



...DOING...
TO ME?



NOT DOING.
UNDOING.

YOU'RE
THE LAST BIT
OF MATTER IN
EXISTENCE. ONCE
YOU'RE GONE, I
CAN FINALLY
DEVOLVE. THEN
ALL WILL BE
STILL.



NO...

DON'T...I...
AM STILL...
I AM



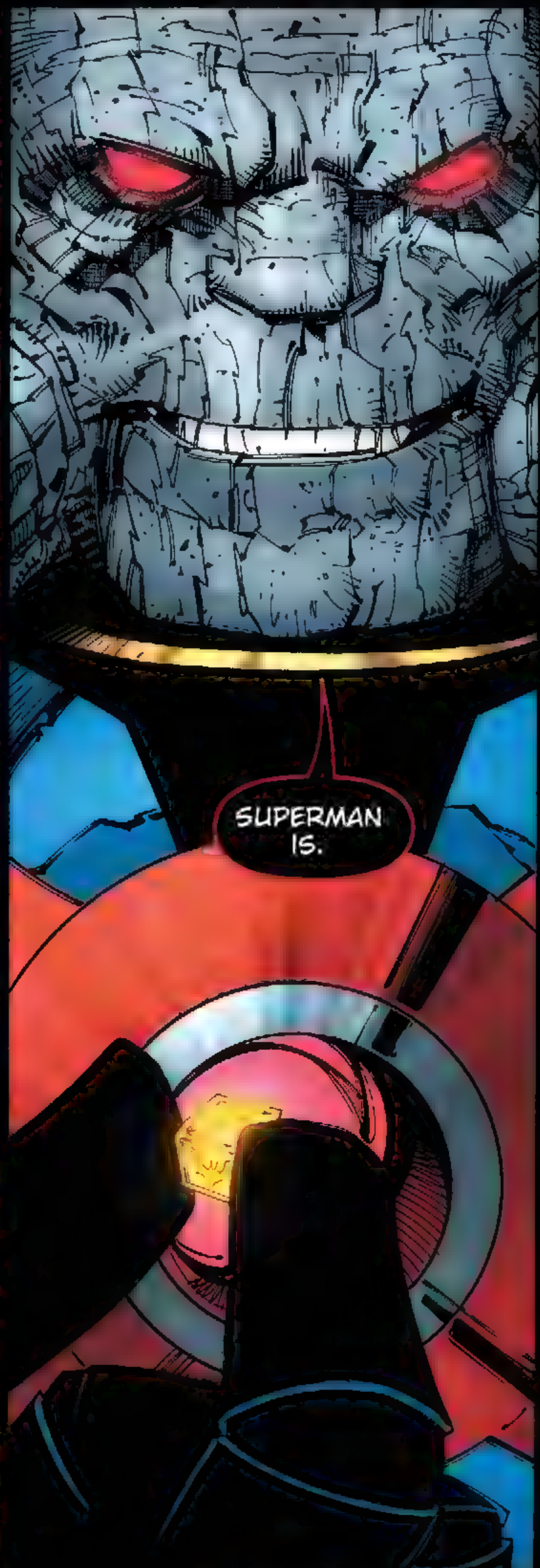
NO. YOU
ARE NOT.



"NO! STOP
THIS!"



LIXAS!
PLEASE!



SUPERMAN
IS.



BOOM



ANTENNA READY
IN THIRTY SECONDS,
SUPERBOY.

STANDING
BY. TARGET THE
BATMAN WHO
LAUGHS.

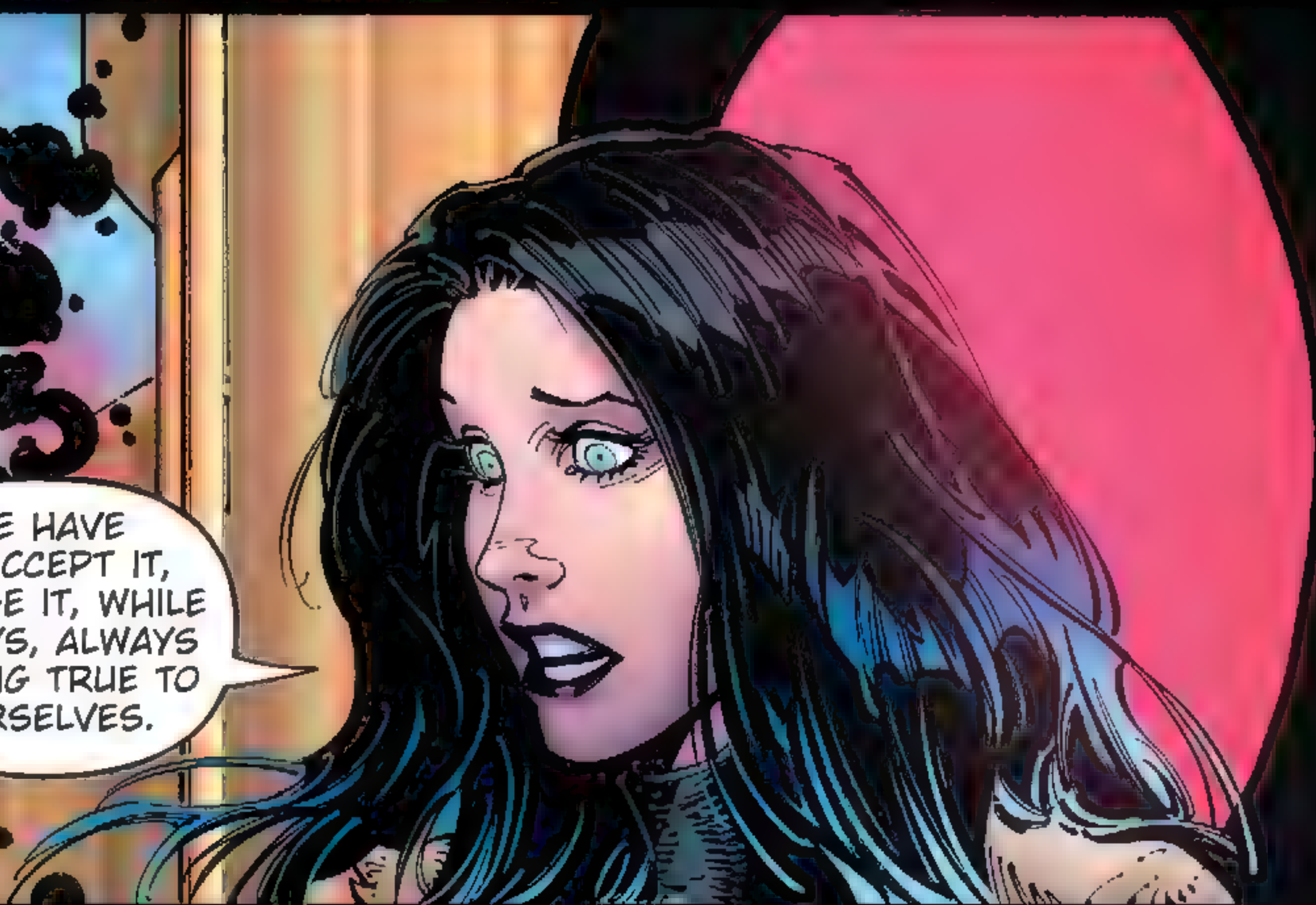
LOOK,
I'LL ADMIT
IT, YOU'RE
RIGHT.

THE WORLD *ISN'T* WHAT IT USED TO BE. BUT THAT'S BECAUSE THE *ONLY* CONSTANT OUT THERE, PRIME, IS *CHANGE*.

TO BE *ALIVE* IS TO BE PART OF ONE CONNECTED SYSTEM THAT'S *ALWAYS* CHANGING.

MATTER IS IN CONSTANT MOTION, LIFE IS EVER CYCLING. IT CAN BE SAD AND HARD. THE ANSWER *ISN'T* CONTROLLING IT WITH ANTI-LIFE OR DESTROYING IT WITH ANTI-MATTER, THE ANSWER *ISN'T* TO *HOLD BACK* CHANGE.

WE HAVE TO ACCEPT IT, ENGAGE IT, WHILE ALWAYS, ALWAYS STAYING TRUE TO OURSELVES.



WE MAY LOOK DIFFERENT, THE CHALLENGES WE FACE MAY BE DARKER, BUT WE'RE STILL HOPEFUL. ALL OF US.

TEN SECONDS. NINE...

PLEASE, PRIME. PLEASE... JUST PICTURE SOMETHING FOR ME.

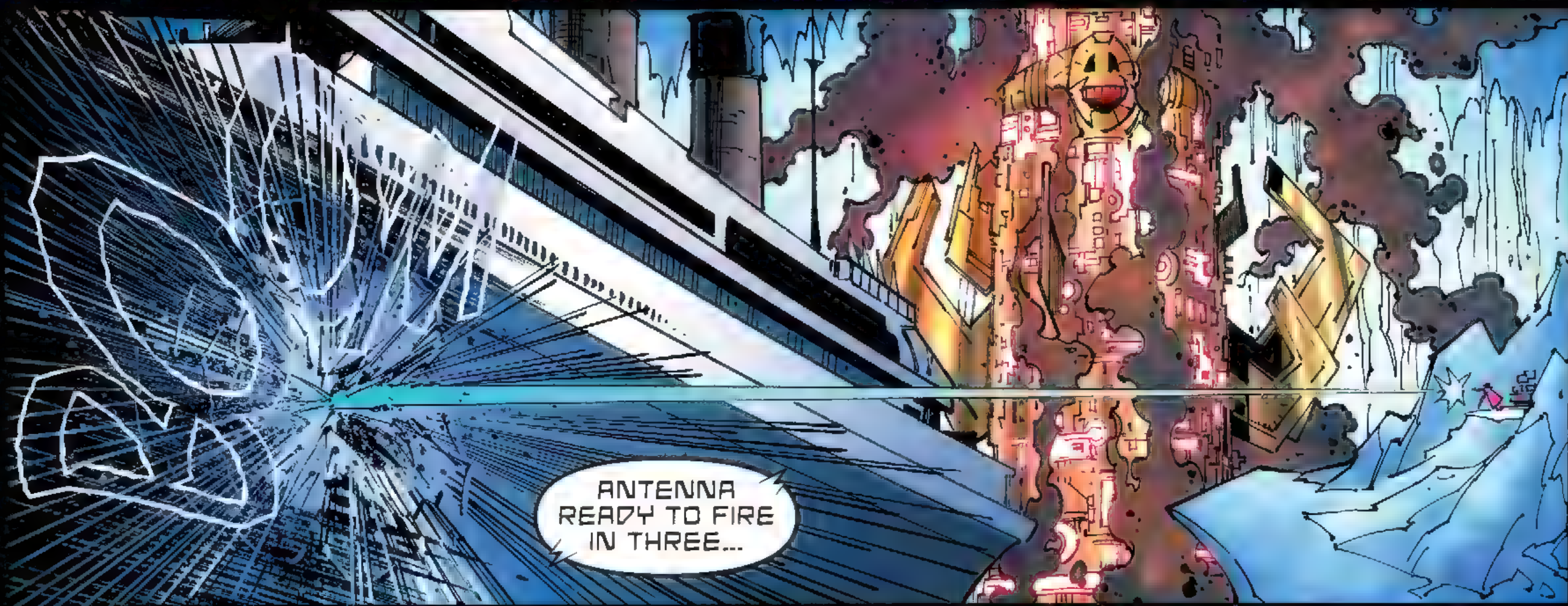


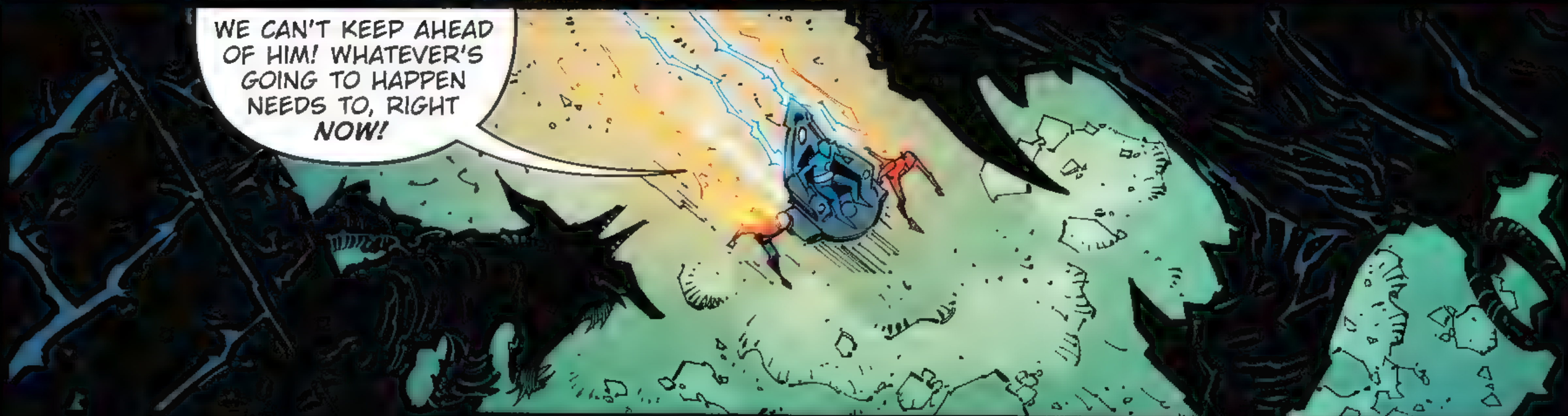
"I WANT YOU TO PICTURE A MULTIVERSE WHERE ALL WORLDS EXIST. AN INFINITE MULTIVERSE. EACH EARTH UNIQUE. ALL CONNECTED."

"YOU CAN HAVE A WORLD LIKE THIS, BUT IT WON'T BE ALONE, OR SOMETHING BUILT AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHERS."

"THERE'S ROOM FOR IT *ALL*. ONE DOESN'T HAVE TO WIN OVER THE OTHER. WE CAN *ALL* WIN, TOGETHER."







YOU TALK ABOUT THIS
ENDLESS MULTIVERSE, BUT
ALL THAT MEANS IS THAT
ANOTHER WORLD COULD
DESTROY OURS! THAT
NOTHING WOULD
BE SAFE!

IT'D ALL
JUST BE SOME
SHOT IN THE
DARK!

YOU'RE
RIGHT =>COUGH
COUGH!< BUT...
ISN'T THAT ALL
HE IS?

SUPERMAN.
ALL HE IS
=>COUGH<...IS A
SHOT IN THE
DARK.

WHAT?





IN THE CAKE

JARRO, CAN
YOU HEAR US?!
WE'RE HEADED
BACK!

WE
LEFT DARKSEID
AND ANTI-MONITOR
BEHIND, BUT WE'VE
GOT SUPERBOY
PRIME WITH US!
JARRO!

*I'M
HERE! I GOT
YOU! BUT YOU
NEED TO HUSTLE!
THE FLASHES,
THEY'RE OUT
OF TIME!*

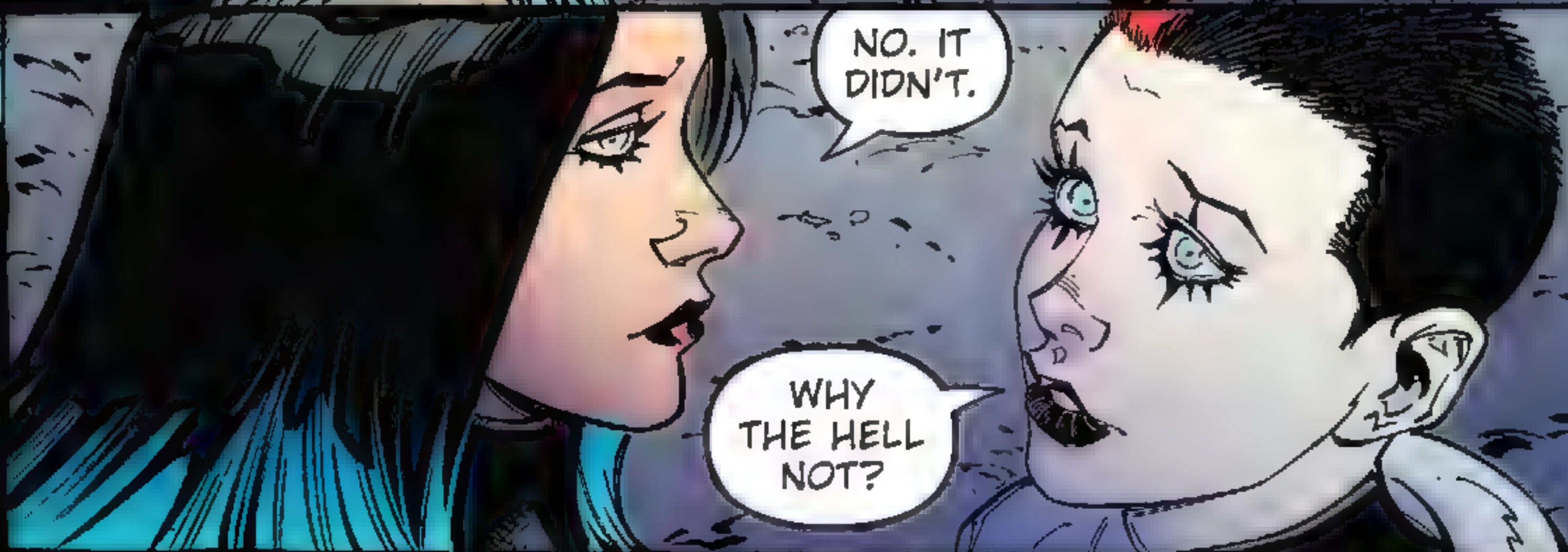


PRIME,
TARGET WALLY!
HURRY!

DOING IT...
CHANNELING
ALL CRISIS
ENERGY...



...NOW!





...TO ME.



NO...
NO, NO,
NO.

YES. YOU
JUST GAVE ME
EVERYTHING
I NEED.



TO REMAKE
THE MULTIVERSE
IN MY OWN
IMAGE.

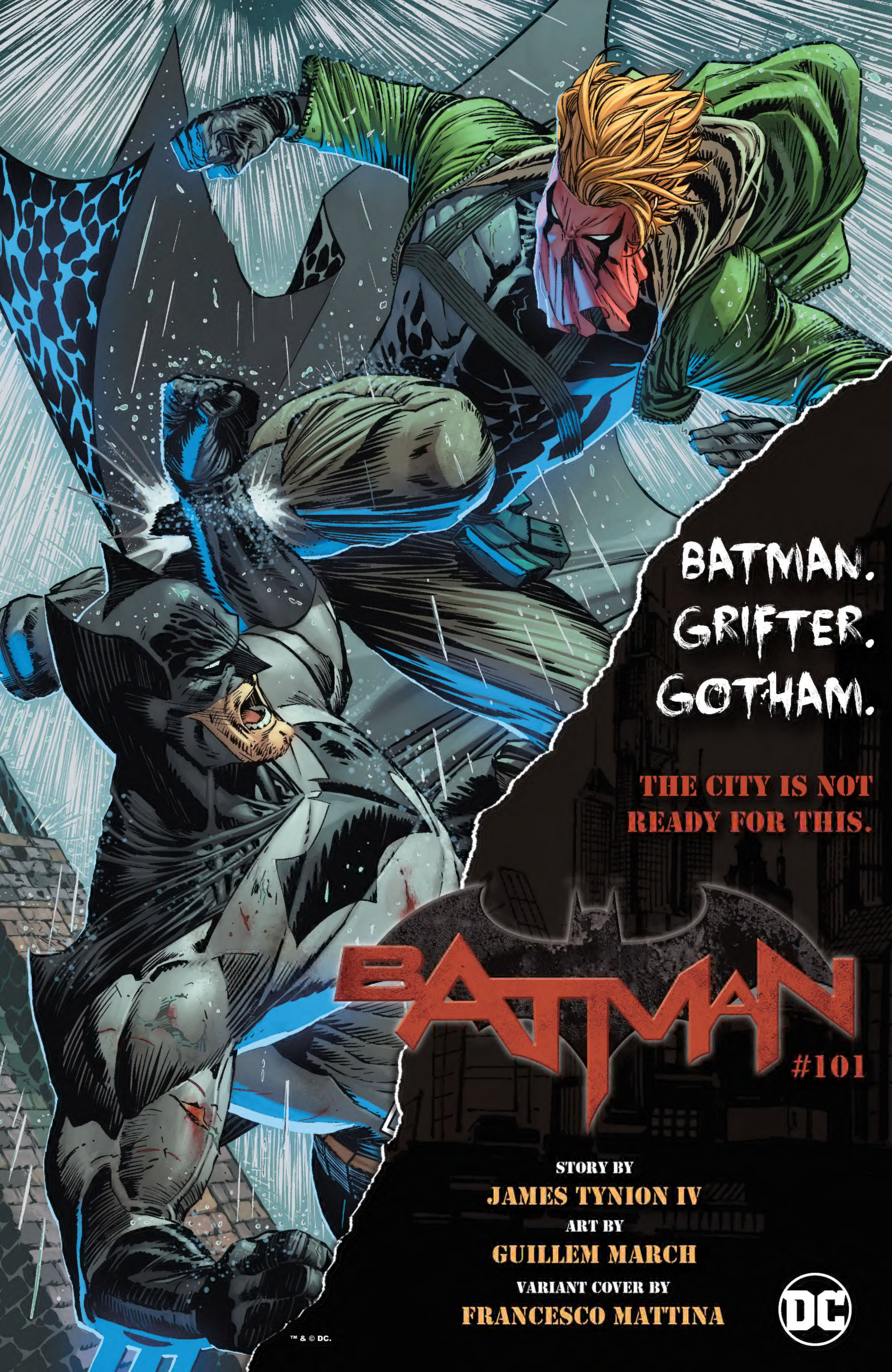


SO
LET ME BE
THE FIRST TO
WELCOME
YOU...



TO THE
LAST 52.

TO BE CONTINUED



**BATMAN.
GRIFTER.
GOTHAM.**

**THE CITY IS NOT
READY FOR THIS.**

BATMAN

#101

STORY BY
JAMES TYNION IV
ART BY
GUILLEM MARCH
VARIANT COVER BY
FRANCESCO MATTINA



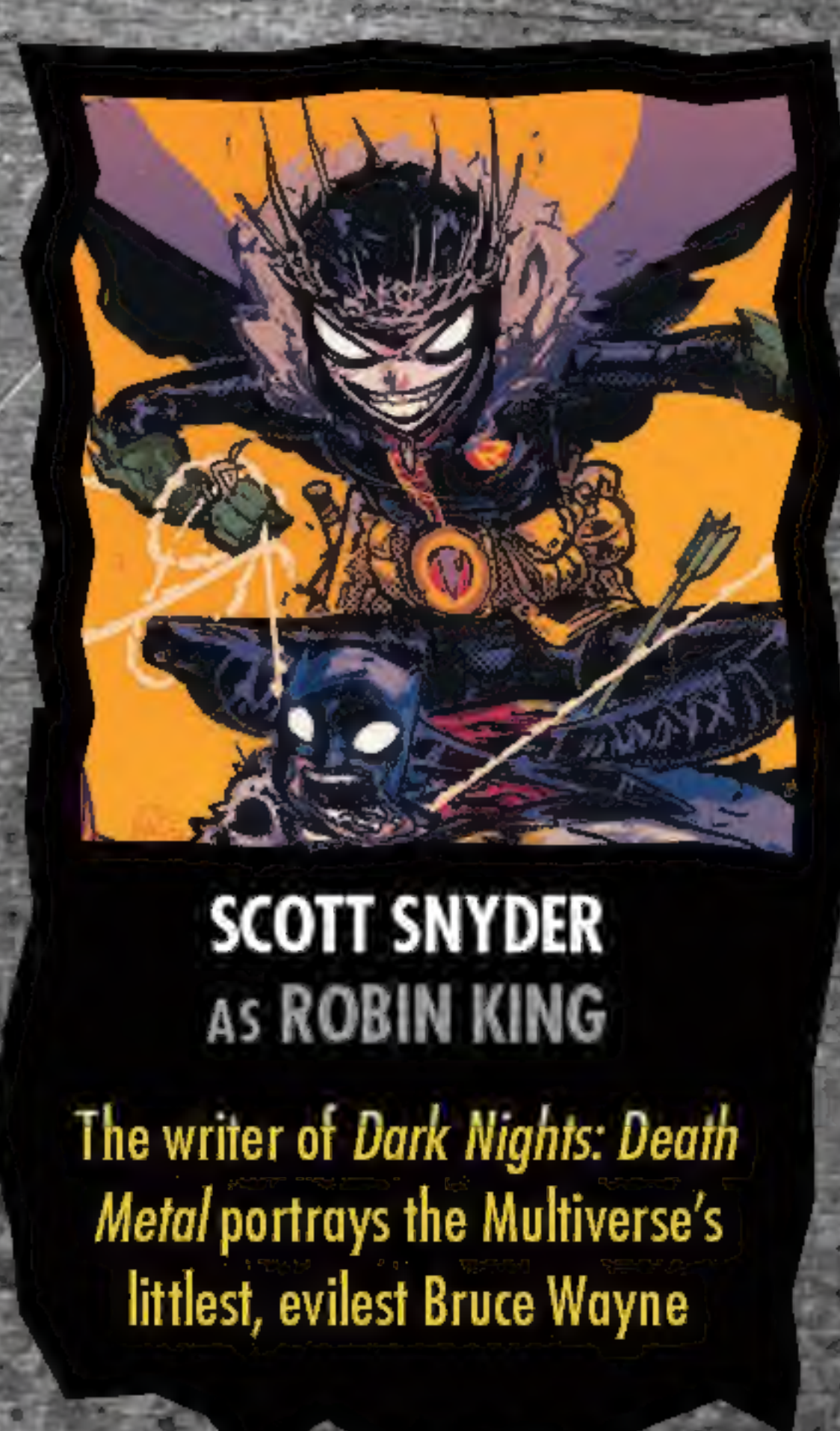
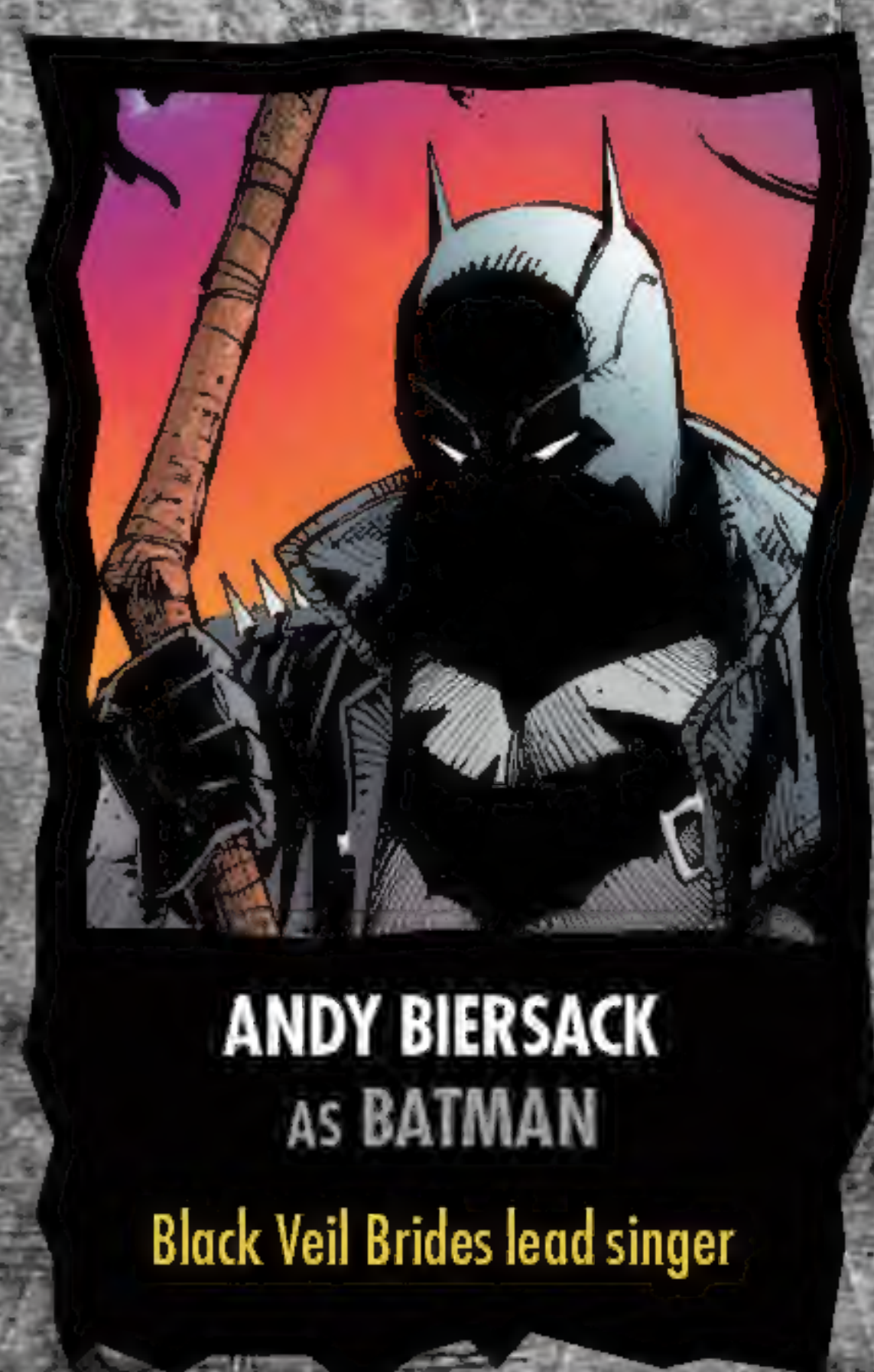


DARK NIGHTS: DEATH METAL • ORIGINAL SCORE

The unrestrained awesomeness of *Dark Nights: Death Metal* has manifested itself out of the page and into a short-form animatic series that gives new life to Scott Snyder and Greg Capullo's Metalverse epic.

Composer and producer Tyler Bates produced a *Dark Nights: Death Metal* soundtrack, but didn't stop there—he crafted a score for the comic, inspired by ambient black metal and accompanied by a series of shorts putting the striking visuals of Capullo, Jonathan Glapion, and FCO Plascencia into motion. The characters will be voiced by an eclectic mix of musicians and actors, plus two creators who will be rather familiar to Dark Nights fans.

"I've invited artists on the soundtrack and pop-culture personalities alike to voice the characters illustrated in Scott and Greg's masterful take on classic DC characters, which possibly has never been more relevant to real life given the challenging time the world is currently experiencing," said Bates. "We are all enjoying the camaraderie of working to bring a new dimension of these DC characters to life in a new medium."



LOOK FOR EPISODES ON **DCDEATHMETAL.WORLD** AND ON DC'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL.
DON'T MISS THE FULL SOUNDTRACK ALBUM FROM LOMA VISTA RECORDINGS IN **EARLY 2021!**

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